



# Adult Education in Pinal County

Fiscal Year 2002

**A**dult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

## The Need for Adult Education In Pinal County

In Pinal County, **39,073\*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **18,141\*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language. In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. **Central Arizona College** is the program certified to provide adult education throughout Pinal County.

\*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Pinal County in FY2002:

<b>Federal dollars:</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>
<b>State dollars:</b>	<b>\$82,500</b>

## Pinal County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- 703 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes
- 36,059 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$4.58 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education
- \$234.71 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student (compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- 325 of 688 students (47%) improved more than two grade levels
- 84 of 85 students (99%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 1 of 3 students (33%) who sought a job found employment
- 6 of 10 students (60%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 7 of 7 students (100%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

## GED Testing in Pinal County

### What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the adult education allocation.

### 324 High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued in Pinal County